

*Stated Meeting, March 7.*

Present, twenty-two members.

Judge KANE, Vice-President, in the Chair.

Letters were read:—

From the Geological Society, of London, dated Somerset House, Nov. 22, 1855, returning thanks for Nos. 51, 52 of the Proceedings of this Society:—

From the Trustees of the Boston Athenæum, dated Boston, Feb. 2;—and from the Smithsonian Institution, dated Washington, Feb. 10, 1856, acknowledging the receipt of No. 54 of the Proceedings.

The following donations were announced:—

FOR THE LIBRARY.

Proceedings of the Boston Society of Natural History. Vol. V. No. 18. Boston. 8vo.—*From the Society.*

The African Repository. Vol. XXXII. No. 2. Feb. 1856. Washington. 8vo.—*From the Am. Colonization Society.*

Monthly Notices of the Royal Astronomical Society. Vol. XVI. No. 3. Jan. 11, 1856. London. 8vo.—*From the Society.*

Twenty-first Annual Report of the Board of Directors of the Young Men's Library Association of Cincinnati, for the year 1855. Cincinnati. 8vo.—*From the Association.*

Official Army Register for 1856: published by order of the Secretary of War. Washington. 8vo.—*From S. Cooper, Adjutant General.*

Report of the Superintendent of the U. S. Coast Survey, showing the progress of the Survey during the year 1854. Washington. 8vo.—*From the Hon. J. R. Tyson.*

The American Journal of Science and Arts. Second Series. Vol. XXI. No. 62. March, 1856. New Haven. 8vo.—*From Profs. Siliman & Dana, Editors.*

Report of the Pennsylvania Hospital for the Insane, for the year 1855. By Thomas S. Kirkbride, M.D. Physician to the Institution. Philadelphia. 8vo.—*From the Author.*

The Scholar's Panoply, as illustrated by the Shield of Achilles;—the Biennial Oration delivered before the Zelosophic Society of the

University of Pennsylvania. By Henry Coppée, Professor of English Literature in the University of Pennsylvania. Philadelphia, 1856. 8vo.—*From the Author.*

Rapport du Surintendant de l'Education pour le Bas-Canada, pour 1854. Quebec, 1855. 8vo.

The Farmer's Journal and Transactions of the Lower Canada Board of Agriculture. Vol. III. No. 10. Feb. 1856: with Prize List of the Agricultural Association of Lower Canada for the year 1856. Montreal. 4to.—*From L. A. Huguet Latour, N. P. of Montreal.*

The Medical News and Library. Vol. XIV. No. 159. March, 1856. Philadelphia. 8vo.—*From Blanchard & Lea.*

The Florist and Horticultural Journal. Vol. IV. No. 9. Philadelphia, 1856. 8vo.—*From H. C. Hanson, Editor.*

The Documentary History of the State of New York:—arranged under the direction of the Hon. Christopher Morgan, Secretary of State. By E. B. O'Callaghan, M.D. Vols. I. II. III. IV. Albany, 1850-51. 4to.—*From Henry S. Randall, Esq.*

Dr. Bell announced the death of Dr. William P. C. Barton, a member of the Society, who died on the 28th of February last, aged 69 years.

Mr. Peale solicited the attention of the members to a contrivance called the *skater's reel*, invented by him several years since:—exhibiting the instrument and showing the method of using it.

A spool of light wood, to which is attached, by one end, a thin but strong cord, about forty feet in length, which cord is wound around the spool, filling all the space between the two ends, somewhat similar to the ordinary cotton spool, so familiar to the domestic eye, but, of course, on a larger scale; the other end of the cord is spliced into a loop, which can be converted, in a moment, to a running noose.

The reel is usually carried in the pocket, being of a convenient size for that purpose, or in the breast of the coat; and the manner of use Mr. Peale illustrated by slipping the noose over the wrist, and throwing the reel to a person supposed to have "broken in:" or it may be thrown out, by a person who is in the water, and thus the instantaneous assistance given, which is so important under such circumstances.

Mr. Peale mentioned that the instrument was original with himself;

that he had carried it during the skating seasons of the last quarter of a century, and had used it serviceably in several instances; and that the statistics of the Skaters' Club of Philadelphia showed that a large number of persons had been rescued by the members, with its aid, of which the late winter had afforded several very remarkable instances; proving that simple means at hand, and ready for instantaneous use, are of more value than the most costly arrangements under other circumstances.

The requisite notice having been given, the Society proceeded to the consideration of the amendment to the laws proposed at last meeting, and the question being taken thereupon, the proposed amendment was agreed to;—making Article 7 of Chapter VIII. read as follows: “He shall receive such annual salary as the Society shall by resolution direct.”

It was then resolved that the salary of the librarian, for the present year, be fixed at one thousand dollars.

Prof. Frazer mentioned that Mr. Thomas Sully was desirous of painting a copy of the portrait of Dr. Robert M. Patterson, late President of the Society, and moved that Mr. Sully have permission to copy the portrait, under the usual conditions:—which motion was agreed to.

Dr. Dunglison having taken the chair, Judge Kane offered the following resolution:—Resolved, That the President or one of the Vice-Presidents, and one or more of the Secretaries be and they are hereby authorized to execute such deeds and conveyances to the Government of the United States, of the Hall now occupied by the Society, as, in the opinion of the Committee referred to in the resolution of the 17th of August last, may be proper for giving effect to the resolution adopted at that meeting:—Which was read, considered and adopted.

*Stated Meeting, March 21.*

Present, fourteen members.

Dr. DUNGLISON, Vice-President, in the Chair.

Letters were read:—

From Henry W. Field, of London, dated Her Majesty's